



**Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength**

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**To: Michigan Senate Transportation Committee**  
**From: Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES)**  
**Re: Our Faith Commitment to Transportation Freedom**  
**Date: March 11, 2014**

Dear Senators,

What would you do without your cars? Would you be able to get to work, make your routine errands, or take your children where they need to go? Would you have had the ability to consider seeking elected office, or the ability to serve your community and state in so many other respects?

This situation is difficult for many of us to imagine, but it is daily life for hundreds of thousands of people in our state. Without access to reliable transportation, they are effectively barred from education, employment, and participation in our society. Without automobiles, our people cannot realize the self-improvement that forms the bedrock of the American ideal.

As a faith-based organization of congregations in the metropolitan Detroit region, we are called to give witness to this injustice. As is written in Job 13:27: "You put my feet in the stocks and watch all my paths; you set a bound to the soles of my feet." Such is life in our society, when we have built great paths for those of us fortunate enough to have automobiles, but still set tight bounds on where buses may run.

In 2011, the Legislature created the Regional Transit Authority for Southeast Michigan in an effort to remedy this situation. Now that the Regional Transit Authority is moving forward with a regional transit plan, the Legislature must act to give the Authority the support it needs.

We urge you to retain funding for the Regional Transit Authority in your supplemental appropriations bill. This small amount of funding is sorely needed to allow the RTA to fulfill its mission, which is so important to the health of the metropolitan Detroit region and the entire state. The state's business leaders increasingly recognize that transit investments are necessary in order for Michigan to compete in a global economy. The Legislature must act on that understanding.

As we are counseled in Scripture, we have an obligation to all members of our society, including, and especially, those too poor for the conveniences that most of us take for granted. "Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it to me" (Matthew 25:45). Please remember that commitment and retain funds for the Regional Transit Authority.

Sincerely,

Reverend John H. Hice  
Royal Oak First United Methodist Church  
Co-chair, MOSES Transportation Task Force

Deacon Lucinda Reese  
Greater Southern Missionary Baptist Church  
Co-chair, MOSES Transportation Task Force